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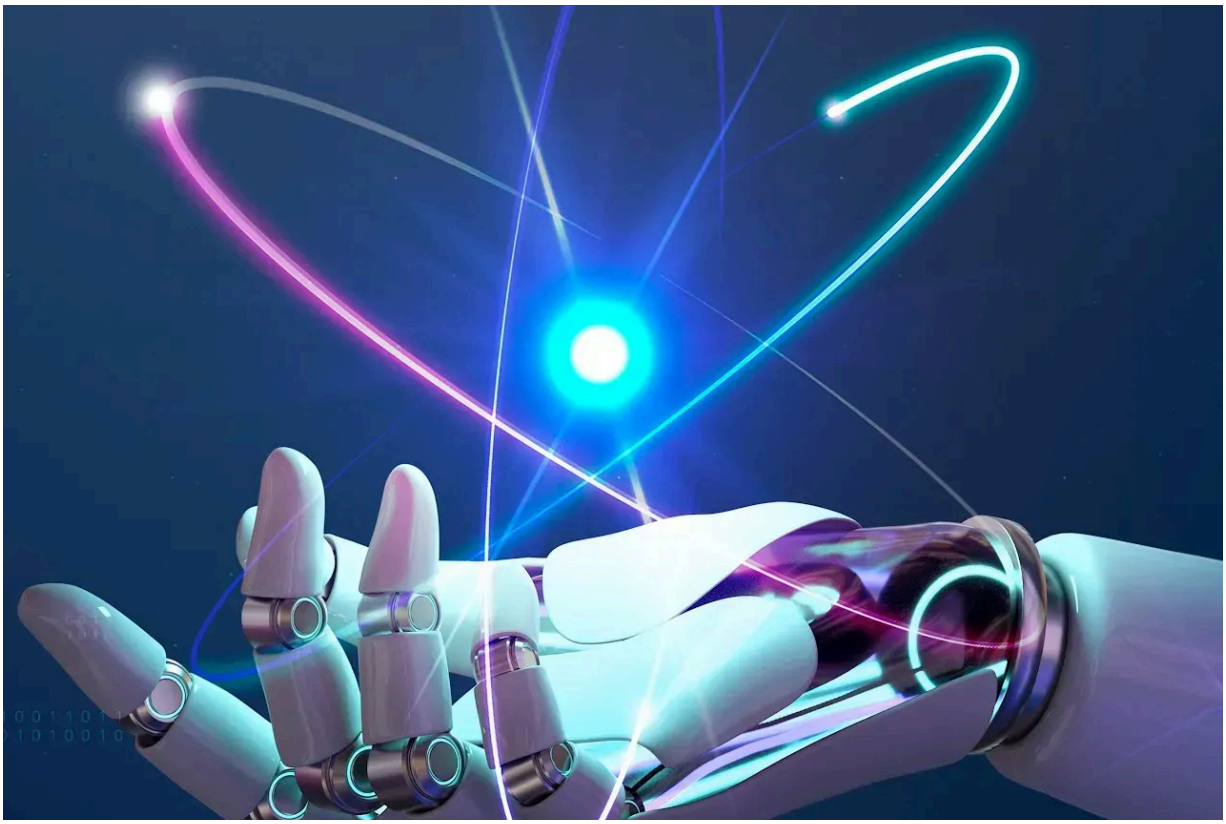
JENKS SCIENCE AND TECH TALKS

Jenks forum discusses renewables

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

December 26, 2024 . 10:39 AM — 2 min read



By John Brown, Ron Latanision, and Walter Hubbard

In December Patrick Roche of Good Energy discussed the state of renewable electricity on the New England grid and how this alig

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Massachusetts' ambitious climate goals, with particular emphasis on how this works here in Winchester.

Good Energy manages community choice aggregation (CCA) programs in over 70 Massachusetts municipalities, including Winchester's WinPower program. Patrick oversees Good Energy's renewable energy strategies, focusing on leveraging the buying power of municipal aggregation programs to expand clean energy on the New England grid while also maintaining very competitive electric rates for consumers. Enabled by legislation passed in Massachusetts in 1987, over 200 Massachusetts municipalities have set up CCA programs, with many more coming soon.

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Patrick explained "renewable energy credits" (RECs) and "Class I renewable power." Electricity that is renewably generated (solar, wind, etc.) and originates in our region (encompassing New England, New York and Eastern Canada) qualifies as "Class I renewable." He explained how Class I RECs are defined, registered, verified, tracked, and enforced through an accounting system maintained by ISO-New England.

WinPower, Winchester's CCA program, has been the default provider of electric power to Winchester residents and small businesses since 2017. WinPower's standard plan (WinPower Standard), which is used by the large majority of Winchester homes and small businesses, provides 87% Class I renewable electricity. That 87% is 25% higher than the state's current minimum renewable requirement. The state minimum, 62%, is what residents who opt out of WinPower and instead go to Eversource directly for electricity get. WinPower also offers, at only slightly higher price, 100% Class I renewable electricity through its WinPower100 plan. Not only is WinPower a win for the climate, it is also a win financially for the of Winchester. The price for WinPower100 is currently (and is ty

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lower than the rate charged by Eversource for electricity which is only 62% renewable (is 38% non-renewable).

Patrick also discussed renewables on the New England electricity grid as a whole and the decarbonization and renewable energy targets of the other five New England states. He concluded with mention of a number of innovative tools – including smart meters (advanced metering infrastructure, AMI), time-dependent variable electric rates (off peak, peak and critical peak pricing), Massachusetts' clean peak standard, and "virtual power plants" – that be will available to Massachusetts to achieve its ambitious emission reduction goals at reasonable cost in coming years.

All Wilson Science & Technology Forum presentations are recorded and can be streamed free on demand at the Wilson Forum's website, https://jenksst.blogspot.com/

WinCAM broadcasts recordings of Forum presentations at 3 pm on Mondays and Fridays. For the schedule, go to https://wincam.org/schedule/education/ and search for "Wilson."

The Wilson Forum's meetings are via Zoom, at 10:30 am on the second and fourth Fridays of each month, with the exception of July and August. To learn of upcoming Forum speakers, you can check the Jenks Center's website https://www.jenkscenter.org/ (events > daytime > Wilson Forum).

Better yet, you can receive advance notification of upcoming talks by emailing a request to be added to the Forum's roster to rlatanision@alum.mit.edu.

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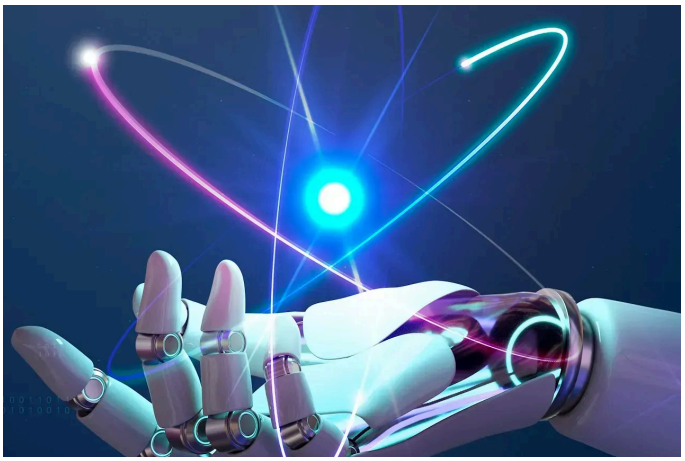


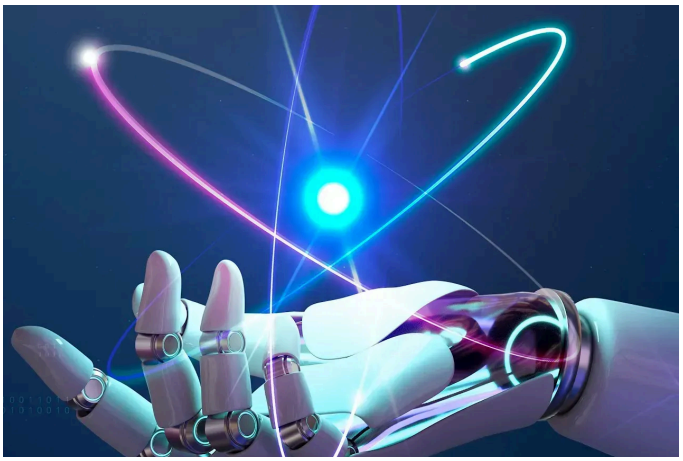
JENKS SCIENCE AND TECH TALKS

Jenks Science and Tech Talks - on truth and the purposes of government

By Ron Latanision and John Brown On November 14, author Joe Simonetta spoke about the truth, which is under siege in our contemporary world; and on November 28th Wilson Forum Historian Vincent Dixon spoke about a central debate of our time, the purposes and evolution of government. By Ron Latanision

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

December 11, 2025



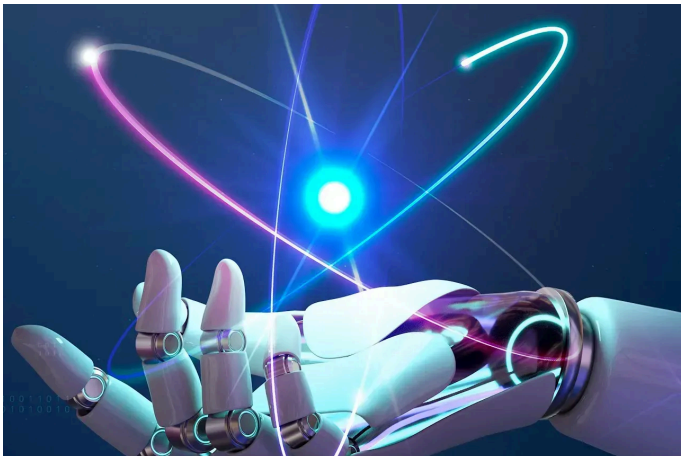
JENKS SCIENCE AND TECH TALKS

Jenks Science & Tech Talks discusses AI and spent nuclear waste

The Wilson Science & Technology Forum at The Jenks Center in Winchester By Ron Latanision and John Brown Tales from the AI Frontier On October 10, Dr. Eddie Robins spoke about the human-machine interface in the expanding presence of artificial intelligence (AI) in our lives. The rapidity with which AI

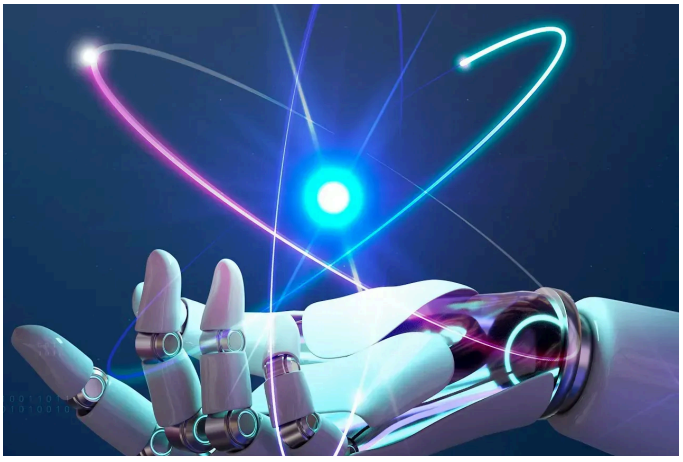
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

November 15, 2025



JENKS SCIENCE AND TECH TALKS

Jenks Science and Technology Forum discusses managing risks



JENKS SCIENCE AND TECH TALKS

Science and Technol Jenks - AI talk and

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in emerging tech, plus quantum computers

By Ron Latanisian In September, Michael Garjian spoke about An Alternative to Corporate Capitalism in Managing the Socio-economic Risks of Emerging Technologies and Jagadeesh Moodera spoke about The Evolution of Quantum Computers An Alternative to Corporate Capitalism The introduction of any new technology into the marketplace and into our social

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

October 5, 2025

Superconductors

By Ron Latanision, John Brown, and Walter Hubbard In June, Marv Goldschmitt added the perspective of a technological philosopher to The Artificial Intelligence Revolution and Professor Amit Goyal spoke about High Temperature Superconductors Artificial Intelligence - Wrap Up for the 2024-2025 Forum Season On June 27, our season wrap-up, The

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July 23, 2025

Latest

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EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committ oversees a budget von

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WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

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